UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1998/8
16 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resumed organizational session for 1998
7 and 8 May 1998

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 1997 session

(12-22 January 1998)

SUMMARY

The present report contains four draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Council would decide not to pursue the question of the enlargement of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations until the year 2000.

By draft decision II, the Council would:

(a) Grant general consultative status to four non-governmental organizations;

(b) Reclassify six organizations from special to general consultative status, two organizations from the Roster to general consultative status and three organizations from the Roster to special consultative status.

By draft decision III, the Council would approve the participation of four organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights established by the Council in resolution 1995/32.

By draft decision IV, the Council would grant Roster status to 11 organizations, pursuant to Council decision 1996/302.

The attention of the Council is also drawn to the Committee resolution 1997/1 concerning the International Association of Educators for World Peace and to Committee decisions 1997/102 on quadrennial reports and 1997/103 concerning the methods of work of the Committee and the Secretariat.

98-09603 (E) 290498

/...

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION	1 - 3	3
	A. Draft decisions	1	3
	B. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council	2	5
	C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council	3	5
II.	ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE AND ISSUES RELATED TO ITS METHODS OF WORK	4 - 30	7
III.	APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS AND REQUESTS FOR RECLASSIFICATION RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	31 - 56	11
IV.	REVIEW OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENERAL AND SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	57 - 73	15
	A. Quadrennial reports, 1990-1993	58	15
	B. Quadrennial reports, 1992-1995	59 - 73	15
V.	IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL DECISION 1996/302	74 - 75	17
VI.	IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1995/32	76 - 83	17
VII.	ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION	84 - 87	18
	A. Opening and duration of the session	84	18
	B. Attendance	85 - 87	18
VIII.	PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE 1998 SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE	88 - 90	18
IX.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS RESUMED 1997 SESSION	91 - 92	19
Annex.	LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS RESUMED 1997 SESSION		20

I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft decisions

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Enlargement of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

The Economic and Social Council, while not opposed to the enlargement of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, and recalling its resolution 1997/57 of 23 July 1997, decides not to pursue consideration of this question until the year 2000, given the fact that the Committee is in a period of transition following the adoption of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, that it is in the process of reviewing its methods of work and that the Secretariat is working under resource constraints.

DRAFT DECISION II

Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant the following non-governmental organizations general consultative status:

Africa Muslims Agency
Asian Legal Resource Centre
Centre de recherches et de promotion pour la sauvegarde des sites et monuments historiques en Afrique

(b) To reclassify six organizations from special to general consultative status, two organizations from the Roster to general consultative status and three organizations from the Roster to special consultative status, as follows:

General consultative status

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University
Europe-Third World Centre
Greenpeace International
International Association of Lions Clubs
International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres
International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies
Parliamentarians for Global Action
World Organization of the Scout Movement

Special consultative status

Catholic International Education Office
Dayemi Complex Bangladesh[1]
International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions

DRAFT DECISION III

Applications from organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council for participation in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people

The Economic and Social Council decides to approve the participation of the following four organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Council in the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group whose establishment was authorized by the Council in resolution 1995/32 of 25 October 1995:

Fédération des organisations amérindiennes de Guyane
Indigenous Women's Nexus
Navajo Working Group for Human Rights
Te Iwi Moriori Trust Board

DRAFT DECISION IV

Expansion of the participation of non-governmental organizations on the Roster for the purposes of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its decision 1996/302 of 26 July 1996, decides to approve the request of the following eleven non-governmental organizations that are on the Roster for the purposes of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development to expand their participation in other fields of the Council:

Asociaçao Pernambucana de Defensa de Natureza (ASPAN)
Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)
Institute for Planetary Synthesis
Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)
International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
International Wood Products Association (IHPA)
People-Centered Development Forum
Sustainable Agriculture and Self-Help (SASH)
United Church of Christ - Board for World Ministries
World Business Council for Sustainable Development
World Economy, Ecology and Development Association

[1] Formerly called Dayemi Complex, Dhaka.

B. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolution of the Committee is brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 1997/1. Special report submitted by the International Association of Educators for World Peace

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations,

Having considered the special report and the additional information presented by the International Association of Educators for World Peace,

1. Takes note of the statements of Mr. Charles Mercieca, Executive Vice-President of the International Association of Educators for World Peace, according to which:

(a) It is not the policy of the Association to participate in politically motivated activities against any Member State;

(b) The Association apologizes to Cuba for the fact that its name was used as accreditation for the person responsible for the incident directed against the Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Geneva on 10 April 1997;

(c) The executive directors of the Association will adopt adequate measures to monitor the activities of the Association's representatives at the headquarters of various United Nations organizations; as part of those measures, the Association will immediately replace its representative in Geneva, Mr. Henry Bandier;

2. Decides to keep this organization on the Roster and to retain the question of the follow-up of the special report of the Association on its agenda until its 1999 regular substantive session.

C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decisions of the Committee are brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 1997/102. Quadrennial reports

The Committee decides to acknowledge the quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that it was not able to review formally owing to time constraints,[2] and invites those organizations, in their next quadrennial reports, to be submitted in 1998, to highlight the activities undertaken during

[2] E/C.2/1995/2 and Add.1-10, E/C.2/1996/2 and E/C.2/1997/3.

the period 1990-1993 that they would like to bring to the attention of the Committee, specifically concerning the support given to the work of the United Nations.

Decision 1997/103. Guidelines to improve the methods of work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and the Secretariat with respect to new applications and reclassifications

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decides to adopt the following guidelines which should be applied so as to improve the methods of work of the Committee and the Secretariat concerning new applications for consultative status and reclassifications:

1. The Secretariat has a principal role to play in ensuring that the formal elements of the applications received are complete, clear, and guided by the technical requirements contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

2. Deadlines with respect to the application process will be fully enforced.

3. Applications received from non-governmental organizations seeking consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or seeking reclassification, to be considered by the Committee at its regular session, should be received by the Secretariat not later than 1 June of the year preceding that session.

4. The Secretariat has the responsibility to notify non-governmental organizations whose applications are incomplete that they must submit the necessary additional information by 30 September. If this information is submitted, the applications will be considered by the Committee at its regular session as originally planned; if not, they will be considered at a later date.

5. The Secretariat will circulate to the members of the Committee, by 15 December, copies of the applications deemed to be in compliance with the formal requirements contained in Council resolution 1996/31. At the same time, a list containing the names, addresses and telephone or fax numbers of such non-governmental organizations will be made available to all States Members of the United Nations.

6. The copies of the applications sent to members of the Committee will automatically include the summary required under part III of the questionnaire, in the language in which the questionnaire was submitted. As soon as possible thereafter, and in any event at least six weeks before the regular session of the Committee, the summaries will be translated into all the official languages of the United Nations and circulated to all the members of the Committee as part of the official documentation of the Committee.

7. The members of the Committee will have until 31 March to send to the Secretariat, in writing, their comments, reservations or questions on individual applications. Questions and additional information requested by the members of the Committee will be immediately forwarded to the relevant non-governmental organizations for reply.

8. The Secretariat will compile two lists. List 1 will contain all the applications on which Member States did not have any comments or need any further information. List 2 will contain all the applications on which delegations expressed reservations and/or requested additional information. These lists will be circulated to the Committee. The non-governmental organizations on list 2 will be notified that some points have been raised with regard to their applications and that they should, where possible, arrange to be contactable in order to respond to any questions from the Committee during its session (the dates of which will be supplied with the notification).

9. The Committee will first review the two lists during an informal meeting to take place no sooner than two weeks before the regular session of the Committee, at a date to be determined by the Bureau in consultation with the members of the Committee. Unless any delegation has further comments, reservations or questions, the non-governmental organizations on list 1 could be granted the status they request as early as possible at the regular session of the Committee. This procedure does not preclude the right of any member of the Committee to pose questions, express reservations or make comments on any organization placed on list 1 at any stage.

10. Only at its regular session will the Committee take action and make recommendations on the status to be given to the non-governmental organizations whose applications or requests for reclassification are under consideration.

11. These guidelines will apply to all applications to be considered by the Committee at its 1999 regular session and thereafter. However, the Secretariat will endeavour to apply immediately those elements that can be implemented without prejudice to the ongoing processing of applications for the 1998 regular session of the Committee.

II. ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE AND ISSUES RELATED TO ITS METHODS OF WORK

4. The Committee considered the question of the enlargement of the Committee and issues related to its methods of work at its 636th, 637th, 639th to 642nd, 646th and 647th meetings, from 12 to 16 and on 20 and 21 January 1998.

Guidelines to improve the methods of work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and the Secretariat with respect to new applications and reclassifications

5. The Committee examined ways to process the increasing number of new applications of non-governmental organizations requesting consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It was stressed that there was no need to give the Secretariat a new role but rather to give it new guidelines so that it could carry out its working relationship with the Committee more efficiently and effectively.

6. At its 647th meeting, on 21 January, the Committee adopted a decision entitled "Guidelines to improve the methods of work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and the Secretariat with respect to new applications and reclassifications", by which it established new procedures for processing new applications and reclassifications received by the Secretariat (see sect. I.C, decision 1997/103).

Quadrennial reports

7. The Committee decided to prepare a separate decision on the working methods of the Committee and the Secretariat concerning quadrennial reports.

8. It was proposed that the quadrennial reports be translated into all the official languages of the United Nations and distributed to Committee members by 15 December of the year preceding their review by the Committee. Because the texts of the quadrennial reports were short, summaries would not be required. It was suggested that the reports include a breakdown of the membership of organizations.

9. The Committee requested the Secretariat to circulate to the members of the Committee, prior to its 1998 session, a compilation of the decisions taken by the Committee during the past six years regarding quadrennial reports that were submitted late or not submitted at all. The compilation should also include a list of those organizations that did not submit their reports during that time.

10. A number of delegations requested that, when contacting the non-governmental organizations whose quadrennial reports had not been received, the Secretariat should emphasize that pursuant to paragraph 61 (c) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, "based on findings of the Committee's examination of the report and other relevant information, the Committee may recommend to the Council any reclassification in status of the organization concerned as it deems appropriate". The intention of the Committee was to make the non-governmental organizations accountable for the activities listed in their reports and have them meet their deadlines. It was suggested that the Secretariat prepare two lists: one containing the name of those organizations that had submitted their reports late and the other containing the names of those that had not submitted their reports. In that regard, comments were made to the effect that should an organization not submit its report for three years, it could be reclassified to Roster status.

11. Several delegations, however, were of the opinion that the late submission of quadrennial reports should not necessarily entail reclassification. The Committee could be flexible with respect to organizations in developing countries that might not have the appropriate means to have their reports reach the Secretariat on time.

12. The Committee agreed to resume consideration of the question of a possible decision on its working methods related to quadrennial reports at its 1998 regular session.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

13. On the question of accreditation, the Committee held an exchange of views on a text circulated among its members. Some delegations expressed the view that non-governmental organizations should be held responsible and accountable for their representatives. A number of delegations held the view that they needed time for further consultations before taking a decision on this important question. Other delegations were of the opinion that the Committee should be careful not to limit the rights granted to non-governmental organizations by the Council in resolution 1996/31 in order to facilitate their participation in the work of the United Nations. One delegation emphasized that a specific time limit should be mentioned for each accreditation, particularly accreditations delivered on an ad hoc basis. That delegation was concerned with the number of representatives each organization could authorize.

14. A second text was circulated on the importance of standardizing the rules for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations. The Committee decided to resume its consideration of the question at its 1998 session.

Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat

15. The Committee noted that the report which the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/58 had requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, setting out new proposals to ensure that the workload of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section could be met effectively and efficiently, had not been submitted owing to the current reorganization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Committee requested that the report be submitted by its 1998 session.

Other procedures

16. As part of their consideration of principles governing the nature of the activities of the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, Committee members expressed their views on two important issues, namely special review procedures and code of ethics criteria.

17. The discussion on special review procedures addressed abuses of consultative status by non-governmental organizations. Several delegations expressed the view that the Committee, rather than limiting itself to an examination of actions of non-governmental organizations that were inconsistent with Articles I and II of the Charter of the United Nations, should also focus

on actions of non-governmental organizations that were incompatible with the letter and spirit of Council resolution 1996/31.

18. Some delegations were of the opinion that Council resolution 1996/31 already contained all the requisite provisions and procedures for addressing violations by non-governmental organizations. Several delegations stressed the central nature of Council resolution 1996/31 and also stressed that special review procedures, if adopted, should be strictly based on the provisions of that resolution.

19. Several delegations held the view that it was the prerogative of the full Committee, rather than its Bureau, to pass judgement on the merits of complaints against individual non-governmental organizations.

20. Concern was expressed about the present practice whereby a formal meeting of the Committee was required to bring forward complaints against non-governmental organizations and initiate the review procedures, which could introduce a lengthy delay in the process. Several delegations suggested that, upon receiving a complaint from a Member State, the Secretariat should ascertain the facts of the case and present them to the Committee at an early date. There was a proposal to hold emergency meetings of the Committee, as needed, to review complaints against non-governmental organizations. Several Member States emphasized the central role of the Economic and Social Council in reviewing complaints against non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.

21. Several delegations requested more time to study the issue and asked that a final decision on the matter be deferred until the 1998 session of the Committee.

22. In its discussion of criteria for a code of ethics for non-governmental organizations, the Committee outlined the full accountability and responsibilities of non-governmental organizations and their representatives.

23. In that regard, one delegation was of the opinion that a representative of a non-governmental organization having violated any of the criteria of the code of ethics should have its accreditation withdrawn by the Secretariat as soon as the violation was reported. Another delegation reported that one non-governmental organization based in Geneva had accredited 21 representatives at a meeting, a practice that was unacceptable.

24. The view was expressed that guidelines establishing the responsibilities of the Secretariat (Non-Governmental Organizations Section, international conference secretariats, Security and Safety Service) for granting accreditation to non-governmental organizations should be clear.

25. A number of delegations proposed that non-governmental organizations participate in the exchange of views determining the criteria for a code of ethics regarding the distribution of accreditations. Another delegation believed it was primarily for States to define the rules that non-governmental organizations should abide by. One delegation mentioned the possibility of

having a steering committee examine the procedure for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations.

26. Another delegation was concerned about the fact that a number of non-governmental organizations were involved in commercial activities. Specific guidelines should define the participation of non-governmental organizations in such activities. Concern was also expressed about how some non-governmental organizations made use of the fact they were in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

27. Another delegation stated that non-governmental organizations should not use their consultative status with the Council to raise funds.

28. Three delegations mentioned that the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) could be consulted in the discussion on criteria for a code of ethics.

29. The Committee decided to resume its discussion on special review procedures and criteria for a code of ethics at its 1998 session.

Enlargement of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

30. The Committee reached the conclusion that decisions taken on its methods of work would determine the outcome of the discussion on the enlargement of its membership. At its 647th meeting, on 21 January, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that consideration of this issue not be pursued until the year 2000, given the fact that the Committee was in a period of transition following the adoption of Council resolution 1996/31, that it was in the process of reviewing its methods of work and that the Secretariat was working under resource constraints (see sect. I.A, draft decision I).

III. APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS AND REQUESTS FOR RECLASSIFICATION RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

31. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 637th to 639th, 641st, 643rd and 647th to 649th meetings, from 13 to 16 and on 21 and 22 January 1998. It had before it the memorandum by the Secretary-General containing requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/1997/R.3).

Applications for consultative status deferred from the 1997 session

32. At its 1997 session, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the application of the Africa Muslims Agency to its resumed 1997 session, (E/1997/90, para. 70).

33. At its 638th meeting, on 13 January, the Committee decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council grant general consultative status to the Africa Muslims Agency (see sect. I.A, draft decision II).

34. The representatives of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland both stated that their delegations wished to dissociate themselves from the decision.

35. At its 1997 session, the Committee had decided to defer consideration of the application of the following organizations to its resumed 1997 session: Asian Legal Resource Centre; Centre de recherches et de promotion pour la sauvegarde des sites et monuments historiques en Afrique; and Humanity International (E/1997/90, para. 57).

36. At its 643rd meeting, on 16 January, the Committee decided to recommend to the Council that the Asian Legal Resource Centre be granted general consultative status (see sect. I.A, draft decision II).

37. At its 649th meeting, on 22 January, the Committee decided to recommend to the Council that the Centre de recherches et de promotion pour la sauvegarde des sites et monuments historiques en Afrique be granted general consultative status (see sect. I.A, draft decision II).

38. Referring to the fact that the information provided by that organization was handwritten instead of typed, was unclear, difficult to read and submitted at the last moment, the representative of the United Kingdom stated that, exceptionally, it was prepared to go along with the consensus on the granting of consultative status to the organization. However, it considered that the documentation, on the basis of which the Committee was asked to take a decision, was unsatisfactory. His delegation would not, in the future, be prepared to take action on the basis of documentation of such poor quality. This statement was supported by a number of other delegations.

39. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to defer its consideration of the application of Humanity International until its 1998 session, since it had not received the clarifications it had requested from the organization.

40. One delegation raised the question of whether the small budget of the organization could support all the activities listed in its application. Other delegations expressed doubts about the funding of the organization. Another delegation pointed out that since the organization had offices in Washington, D.C., a representative could come to New York to address the Committee at its 1998 session.

Question of the reinstatement of the consultative status of the International Lesbian and Gay Association with the Council

41. At its 649th meeting, on 22 January, the Committee had before it a letter from the International Lesbian and Gay Association addressed to the Chairman, in which the organization requested the Committee to consider reinstating its consultative status, which had been suspended by Economic and Social Council in 1994 (Council resolution 1994/50).

42. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to defer discussion of this question to its 1998 session, as a number of delegations had expressed the view

that more in-depth discussion and information was necessary and that more time was needed to confer with their capitals.

43. One delegation stated that, in the light of that deferment, it was the Committee's intention to review the request of the organization at its 1998 session.

Requests for special reports pursuant to paragraph 61 (c) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

44. At its 638th meeting, on 13 January, the Committee had before it a letter from the Government of Canada concerning certain activities of the International Agency for Rural Industrialization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council. Pursuant to paragraph 61 (c) of Council resolution 1996/31, the Committee decided to request the organization to submit a special report to the Committee at its 1998 session.

45. Also at its 638th meeting, the Committee had before it a note verbale circulated by a representative concerning incidents that had taken place during the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights, both held in Geneva, concerning incidents involving individuals with a criminal past accredited by two non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council: Liberation and the Society for Threatened Peoples.

46. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to request Liberation to submit a special report to the Committee at its 1998 session, pursuant to paragraph 61 (c) of Council resolution 1996/31.

47. At its 1997 session, the Committee had requested the International Association of Educators for World Peace, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, to submit a special report pursuant to paragraph 61 (c) of Council resolution 1996/31 (E/1997/90, paras. 94-97).

48. At its 644th meeting, on 19 January, the Committee had before it the special report.

49. At the same meeting, after hearing the explanations provided by a representative of the organization, the Committee decided to keep the organization on the Roster and to retain the question on its agenda for review at its 1999 session.

50. At its 647th meeting, on 21 January, the Committee adopted a resolution entitled "Special report submitted by International Educators for World Peace" (see sect. I.B, resolution 1997/1).

Requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

51. The Committee considered requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations at its 639th, 647th and 648th meetings, on 14 and 21 January 1998, on the basis of the memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/1997/R.3).

52. At its 639th meeting, on 14 January, the Committee considered a request for reclassification to general consultative status of Dayemi Complex Bangladesh, an organization on the Roster. A delegation noted that the membership of the organization was limited mainly to one country. It then proposed that the organization be reclassified to special consultative status.

53. At its 648th meeting, on 21 January, the Committee decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council reclassify Dayemi Complex Bangladesh to special consultative status.

54. The Committee decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council reclassify the following non-governmental organizations (see sect. I.A, draft decision II):

General consultative status

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University
Europe-Third World Centre
International Association of Lions Clubs
International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres
International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies
Parliamentarians for Global Action
World Organization of the Scout Movement

Special consultative status

Catholic International Education Office
Dayemi Complex Bangladesh
International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions

55. With regard to the request of International PEN for reclassification from the Roster to special consultative status, a member of the Committee requested that additional information be provided regarding "a research trip to Cuba". Another member of the Committee requested clarifications regarding references to "Hong Kong" and "Taiwan Province of China". The Committee, noting that the information had not been provided during the current session, decided to pursue its consideration of the request at its 1998 session.

56. With regard to the request of the World Organization Against Torture for reclassification from the Roster to special consultative status, one member of the Committee requested clarification concerning references to "East Timor". Another member of the Committee noted with concern that one of the officers of the organization was a well-known Sudanese opposition leader. Reservations were expressed by a member of the Committee regarding the large amount of government funding received by the organization. The Committee, noting that the information it had requested had not been provided during the current session, decided to pursue its consideration of the request at its 1998 session.

IV. REVIEW OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENERAL AND SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

57. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 644th to 646th, 648th and 649th meetings, from 19 to 22 January 1998. It had before it quadrennial reports for the period 1990-1993 submitted by 188 non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/C.2/1995/2 and Add.1-10, E/C.2/1996/2 and E/C.2/1997/3). The Committee also had before it quadrennial reports for the period 1992-1995, submitted by 95 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/C.2/1997/2 and Add.1 and 2).

A. Quadrennial reports, 1990-1993

58. At its 647th meeting, on 21 January, the Committee decided to acknowledge the quadrennial reports for the period 1990-1993 on the activities of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, which it was not able to review formally owing to time constraints, and to invite those organizations to highlight the activities undertaken during the period 1990-1993 that they would like to bring to the attention of the Committee in their next quadrennial reports, to be submitted to the Committee in 1998 (see sect. I.C, decision 1997/102).

B. Quadrennial reports, 1992-1995

59. The Committee took note of the reports of 89 non-governmental organizations.

60. The Committee considered the report of Greenpeace (see E/C.2/1997/2/Add.2) at its 645th meeting, on 19 January. The Committee, noting the important work that the organization was carrying out, decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council reclassify the organization from special to general consultative status (see sect. I.A, draft decision II).

61. At its 649th meeting, on 22 January, the Committee took note of the report of CARE International (see E/C.2/1997/2/Add.2). However, the Committee requested the organization provide the clarifications it sought concerning references to "Chechnya" and the "Republic of Korea".

62. With regard to the report of CHANGE (see E/C.2/1997/2/Add.2), a member of the Committee requested clarifications regarding references to the organization's participation in the work of the General Assembly and the Third Committee.

63. At its 649th meeting, the Committee, noting that the information had not been provided during the current session, decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1998 session.

64. With regard to the report of the International Electrotechnical Commission (see E/C.2/1997/2/Add.2), some members of the Committee requested additional information on the participation of the organization in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

65. At its 649th meeting, the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1998 session.

66. With regard to the report of the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations (see E/C.2/1997/2/Add.1), a member of the Committee requested additional information, in particular as it related to the subject matter and the thrust of the organizations' publications and training courses. He also requested information about specific examples of cooperation with United Nations bodies. He further noted that several representatives of the organization attending meetings of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights were simultaneously representing the World Society of Victimology and the World Muslim Congress, which was an unacceptable practice.

67. At its 649th meeting, the Committee, noting that the requested clarifications had not been provided during the current session, decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1998 session.

68. With regard to the report of Mutual Assistance of the Latin American Government Oil Companies (see E/C.2/1997/2), a member of the Committee requested additional information regarding the possible participation of the organization in intergovernmental forums as part of a government delegation.

69. At its 649th meeting, the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1998 session.

70. With regard to the report of National Wildlife Federation (see E/C.2/1997/2), a member of the Committee requested clarification regarding references to "Chinese Government attempts to exclude non-governmental organizations from the Fourth World Conference on Women".

71. At its 649th meeting, the Committee, noting that the information had not been provided during the current session, decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1998 session.

72. With regard to the report of World Society of Victimology (see E/C.2/1997/2/Add.2), a member of the Committee requested information on the participation of the organization in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Commission for Human Rights.

73. At its 649th meeting, the Committee decided to pursue its consideration of the report at its 1998 session.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL DECISION 1996/302

74. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 646th meeting, on 20 January 1998. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing applications from non-governmental organizations on the Roster for the purposes of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development to expand their participation in other fields of the Economic and Social Council (E/C.2/1997/R.4).

75. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council approve the requests of the non-governmental organizations contained in document E/C.2/1997/R.4 (see sect. I.A, draft decision IV).

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1995/32

76. At its 643rd meeting, on 16 January 1998, the Committee, in accordance with Council resolution 1995/32, continued its consideration of applications from organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that were interested in participating in the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people.

77. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, China, Tunisia, India, the Sudan, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Indonesia and the United States of America and the observer for Algeria.

78. At the 647th meeting, on 21 January, statements were made by the representatives of Tunisia, the United States of America, Cuba and Chile.

79. At the 648th meeting, on 21 January, statements were made by the representatives of Ethiopia, Cuba, Tunisia, China, the Sudan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland, India, the Philippines, Costa Rica, Indonesia and the United States of America and the observer for Djibouti.

80. Also at the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council authorize four organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Council to participate in the Working Group (see sect. I.A, draft decision III).

81. At the same meeting, the Committee, after a lengthy discussion on two organizations of indigenous people (Mouvement culturel berbère and Aide et solidarité au peuple afar) decided not to allow these two organizations to participate in the work of the Working Group. The United Kingdom, the United States and Ireland dissociated themselves from the decision on the grounds that there was insufficient information to justify such a decision.

82. Also at the same meeting, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the applications of four other organizations of indigenous people to its 1998 session.

83. The Committee requested its Chairman to inform the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that, in the future, it should send the applications of organizations of indigenous people to the Committee well in advance of its session in order to give members of the Committee sufficient time to consider them.

VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

84. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations held its resumed 1997 session from 12 to 22 January 1998. The Committee held 14 meetings (636th to 649th meetings).

B. Attendance

85. Representatives of all the States members of the Committee attended the session: Bulgaria, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Madagascar, Paraguay, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

86. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Djibouti, France, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela, Viet Nam.

87. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

General consultative status: International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Transnational Radical Party;

Special consultative status: Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, Parliamentarians for Global Action;

Roster: Dayemi Complex Bangladesh, International Association of Educators for World Peace.

VIII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 1998 SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

88. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 649th meeting, on 22 January. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda for the session of the Committee to be held in 1998.

89. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, the United States of America, India and China.

90. Also at the same meeting, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its 1998 session, as orally amended during the discussion, for submission to the Economic and Social Council.*

IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS RESUMED 1997 SESSION

91. At its 649th meeting, on 22 January, the Committee took note of the preliminary draft report and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it in consultation with the members of the Committee, as appropriate.

92. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Tunisia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and India.

---

* The Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1998, approved the provisional agenda for the 1998 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Council decision 1998/204).

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS RESUMED 1997 SESSION

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.2/1995/2 and Add.1-10	4	Quadrennial reports, 1990-1993
E/C.2/1996/2	4	Quadrennial reports, 1990-1993
E/C.2/1997/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/C.2/1997/2 and Add.1 and 2	4	Quadrennial reports, 1992-1995
E/C.2/1997/3	4	Quadrennial reports: follow-up to the decisions taken by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its resumed 1995 session
E/C.2/1997/R.3	3	Requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General
E/C.2/1997/R.4	5	Applications from Non-Governmental Organizations on the Roster for the purposes of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development: memorandum by the Secretary-General
-	2	Provisional agenda for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1998